

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of February 11, 2004.

It is respectfully submitted that this amendment will require neither a new search nor substantial reconsideration.

In response to the constructive election of the first numbered paragraph of the Office Action, Claims 31-38 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Office Action rejected Claims 20-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response, Claim 20 has been amended to recite “intervals” rather than “mutual intervals”. It is respectfully submitted that this resolves the rejection with respect to this language in Claim 20 and provides proper antecedent basis for “intervals” in Claim 24. Claim 25 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, Claim 20 has been amended to remove the language “by selecting a program step”.

It is respectfully submitted that Claim 20, as well as the pending claims, are now definite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to

withdraw the rejections of the claims, to enter the amendment, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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